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PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Stuart C. Hansen

Application No. 09/976,417

Filed: October 12, 2001

For: ION MIRROR FOR TIME-OF-  
FLIGHT MASS  
SPECTROMETER

Art Unit: 2881

Examiner: Paul M. Gurzo

Atty Docket: 10010582-1

RECEIVED  
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of 29 January 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**In the Specification:**

Page 7, line 11, delete the paragraph beginning "The grid plate 23..." and substitute the following paragraph:

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-- The grid plate 23 is designed to contact the front electrode 9 and comprises an aperture 24 for receiving and reflecting ions, as well as a grid frame 31. The grid plate 23 is attached to the flight tube 8 by means of a fastener (not shown in FIGS.), and has an aperture 24 that the grid frame 31 is stretched across. The grid frame 31 is attached to the ion mirror 5 and can be as large as the aperture is required in practice. The grid frame 31 also serves as an internal electrostatic shield. In order to minimize field penetration of the electric field into the flight tube 8, the grid frame 31 is attached to the internal side of the